

Kalahari Raptors - Identification Sheet

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RAPTOR I.D. SHEET

The most common raptors found on/around the reserve are shown with simplified markings as viewed from a distance/underneath.

DF = Distinctive features
 FA = Flight aspect
 CW = Commonly confused with ...
 CMR = Common meerkat reaction

(largest → smallest + codes)

① LAPPET FACED VULTURE (LFV)



DF: BLACK BODY/WINGS, DISTINCT WHITE 'V' ON BODY, SHORT TAIL
 FA: VISUALLY IN PAIRS
 CW: N/A
 SIZE: HUGE 115 CM
 CMR: JUMPY, ALARM BUT RARELY GO BELOW, MAY MOVE TO BOLT HOLE

② WHITE BACKED VULTURE (WBV)



DF: BLACK FLIGHT FEATHERS, WHITE UNDERWING COVERTS - HIGH CONTRAST
 FA: SOARS
 CW: JUV. MARTIAL EAGLE
 SIZE: BIG 90-98 CM
 CMR: SMALL ONES ALARM AND LOOK BELIEFLY

③ MARTIAL EAGLE (MRE)



DF: BLACK HEAD, WHITE BODY, DARK BROWN WINGS
 FA: V. HIGH, SOARS - NO FLAPPING
 CW: BOB OR JUV. HAWK LIKE WBV
 SIZE: BIG 78-83 CM
 CMR: SHIT A BRICK AND BARK FROM BH

④ BROWN SNAKE EAGLE (BSE)



DF: DARK HEAD/BODY AND UNDERWING COVERTS
 TAIL HAS FOUR CLEAR BANDS, CARE
 FA: CAN HOVER BALMPLY
 CW: N/A
 SIZE: MED/LARGE 71-6 CM
 CMR: QUITE SCARED BUT RELAX QUICKLY

⑤ TAWNY EAGLE (TAE)



DF: DARK BROWN, BLACK WING-TIPS, SML WHITE AREAS
 FA: SOARS AT HEIGHT, OFTEN SEEN ON POSTS/TREES
 CW: SCOPPE BUZZARD (BUT STB MUCH SMALLER)
 SIZE: M/BIG 65-72 CM
 CMR: SHIT A PEBBLE AND BARK FROM BH

⑥ BLACK BREASTED SNAKE EAGLE (BBSE)



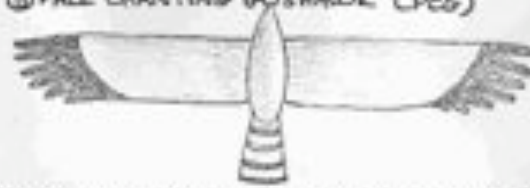
DF: USUALLY ONLY SEE BLACK HEAD + WHITE BODY
 FA: FLIES HIGH
 SIZE: M/BIG 65-8 CM
 CMR: V. SCARED AND WATCH FROM BH

⑧ GATELEUR (BWT)



DF: STRONG BLACK/WHITE CONTRAST, VERY CHORE
TAIL + BODY, RED BEAK + LEGS
A: ACROBATIC FLIGHT OR FAST LOW CRUISE
CW: UNMISTAKABLE
SIZE: 55 - 70 cm
MR: MOVE TO BH OR STAND AND WATCH

⑨ PALE CHANTING GOSHAWK (PCG)



DF: PALE GRAY WITH BLACK WINGTIPS, BANDED
TAIL, WINGS LOOK PLANKLIKE, WHITE PATCH
FA: BIG FLAPPING MOTION WITH LONG WINGS
CW: BSK POSSIBLY
SIZE: 53 - 63 cm
MR: GROWL AND MOVE TO BH OR PUPE

⑩ BLACK KITE (BLK)



DF: GENERALLY APPEARS BLACK WITH FORKED TAIL
FA: WINGS ANGLED BACK IN FLIGHT, FLAPPY F.A.
CW: YELLOW BILLED KITE (BUT THIS HAS, QUISQUANT...)
SIZE: 55 cm
MR: MEERKATS NEEDMUS

⑪ STEPPE BUZZARD (STB)



DF: BLACK FLIGHT FEATHERS, SANDY BROWN
STRIATIONS, WHITE PATCHES
FA: CRUISES 100 - 300 m
CW: 2v BSK BUT BSK HAS BANDED TAIL
SIZE: 45 - 50 cm
MR: AS FOR TAW

⑫ LANNER FALCON (LAF)



DF: APPEARS BROWN/BROWN ALONG UNDERPARTS
BANES MOST VISIBLE ON TAIL
FA: FLIES LOW 50 - 100 m, FAST FLAPS + GLIDES
CW: PERSIAN FALCON
SIZE: 40 - 5 cm
MR: MEERKATS WATCH/GROWL

⑬ BLACK SHOULDERS KITE (BSK)



DF: WHITE UNDERPARTS, BLACK WING TIPS
FA: WINGS ANGLED FORWARD, FAST, WIGGLES.
CW: PCG
SIZE: 35 cm
MR: MEERKATS THINK IT'S A PCG

⑭ GABAR GOSHAWK (GAG)



DF: LOTS OF BANES OVER PALE WHITE BODY
GREY THROAT/BREAST, WHITE RUMP
SHORT STUMPY WINGS
A: HUNTS IN LOW FLIGHT
CW: PCG - HAS SIMILAR TAIL RUMP
MR: WATCH

FURTHER DETAIL/INFO CAN BE FOUND
IN BASH FIELD GUIDE OR
NEWMAN'S BIRDS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA OR
IN TOM'S BRAIN.

